

The Tree Commission Meeting for the City of New Castle took place on November 7, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of New Castle's Town Hall.

Members Present: John Lloyd, Chairperson
 Chip Patterson
 Erv Thatcher
 Tom Truman
 Nancy Coning
 Susan Keyser

Members Absent: Fran Peden
 Mark Miller

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lloyd at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 10/3/11 meeting. The motion was approved.

Mr. Patterson informed that Mr. Peden's wife recently passed away. The Tree Commission will send an acknowledgement to Mr. Peden.

Old Business

Pruning Requests – Mr. Lloyd would like to approve these requests with the exception of 230 E. 2nd Street. One (1) limb has been removed from the tree, but no other limbs are over the roof or touching the house. Ms. Keyser made a motion that there is no reason to remove any more limbs on the tree (London plain) in front of 230 E. 2nd Street. The motion was seconded and carried.

59 The Strand – There is dead wood that needs to be removed from the tree. Mr. Thatcher stated it would be difficult to take off some of the branches on the bottom, but the prices quoted by Tree, Inc. are reasonable.

After discussion it was decided that Tree, Inc. will prune the nine (9) trees that have prices quoted on the list. Mr. Lloyd is generally available for guidance when the work is done. There are three (3) trees on E. 2nd Street that are small pruning jobs that Ms. Keyser volunteered to handle 217 E. 2nd Street and look at 219 and 221 E. 2nd Street.

A motion was made by Ms. Keyser to have Tree, Inc. proceed with pruning the nine (9) trees that are priced (excepting 230 E. 2nd Street). The motion was seconded and approved.

*This work is contingent on approval of requisitions.

Removal Requests

211 Harmony Street – A cherry tree is damaging the sidewalk. Ms. Keyser is not in favor of removing this tree and suggested that Mr. Carlson determine if the root that is going towards the step can be removed, thus saving the tree and eliminating the hump that currently exists. The Commission will review this tree.

There are two (2) trees (15 E. 2nd Street & Coates house) that Russ Carlson will look at when he is next in town. There is a cavity about 12-14 ft. up in the tree at the Coates house that Ms. Keyser would like Mr. Carlson to determine if the damage was intentionally inflicted.

Van's Triangle – Pruning was done a few months back and is being requisitioned. Mr. Lloyd said a couple of trees were planted on both sides of the existing trees during the recent tree planting.

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The Trustees are considering planting in minimal mowing areas. Cypress and willow oak trees may be planted; Mr. Thatcher prefers planting cypress trees rather than willow oak trees.

36 Casimir Court – Ms. Keyser made a motion to remove the Bradford pear tree at this location. The motion was seconded and approved.

4 Casimir Court – There are four (4) Bradford pear trees causing damage to the sidewalk. No trees should be planted between the sidewalk and the curb. Ms. Keyser made a motion to remove the four (4) Bradford pear trees. The motion was seconded and approved.

8 E. 3rd Street – There is a Norway maple tree that looks bad and has not grown well. The roots are girdling. The homeowner has requested the tree be removed and that a replacement tree be planted. A motion was made by Ms. Keyser to remove this tree. The motion was seconded and approved.

48 E. 5th Street – The top of a Zelcova tree is dead. There are a number of Zelcova trees dying around the City and Ms. Keyser requested that Mr. Carlson give an opinion. Possible causes of weather and herbicide treatments were discussed. Mr. Truman made a motion to remove this tree. The motion was seconded and approved.

29 The Strand – A pin oak tree is entwined in the utility wires, the top is dead, it is in a bad location and declining. A motion was made by Mr. Truman to remove this tree. The motion was seconded. Ms. Keyser would like to get a price on this work before taking action. Mr. Truman was in agreement and the motion was amended accordingly.

228 E. 2nd – There is a large tree (Sycamore or London plain) that needs to be removed. The homeowner believes it is affecting the foundation of his home. (*Discussion followed.*)

701 South Street – The top of the ash tree is dead along with a majority of the tree. Mr. Thatcher made a motion to remove this tree. The motion was seconded and approved.

141 E. 3rd Street – This is a Norway maple tree that has had extensive pruning due to utility work. No action will be taken at this time.

Buttonwood Park – There are three (3) trees at this location (box elder, cherry, silver maple). The silver maple is broken off and lying in another tree. The cherry tree is mostly dead with the live portion affected by poison ivy. Most of the box elder is in the yard of 17 Buttonwood. There is a playground and an active park in this area. Revitalizing the park was discussed and Ms. Keyser suggested planting some trees in this area during the next tree planting. Mr. Thatcher made a motion to remove the three (3) trees. The motion was seconded and approved.

221 Harmony Street – The top is dead of the Zelcova tree, the low limbs have been cut off, and it is partially alive. A motion was made by Mr. Truman to remove this tree. The motion was seconded and approved.

Tree Planting Requests – Mr. Lloyd said the only pending requests are the ones that still have trees standing. An attempt was made to plant a tree at Harmony Street and The Strand in place of the chestnut tree, but a big portion of the stump was still present. This issue will be addressed.

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Members Reports – Ms. Keyser was granted permission to prune the three (3) trees on E. 2nd Street.

Mr. Lloyd said he received a complaint earlier this month about the structural integrity of two (2) trees in Dobbinsville. Location is in the backyards of 627 and 629 Clymer Street. One is a Chinese elm and the other is a silver maple. The trees were damaged during the storm in June 2009. There is major dead wood present and broken limbs over yards. Mr. Lloyd would like to force the owners to remediate the hazards and if they do not do so, then the ordinance permits the Tree Commission to do the work and put a lien on the property. As Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Lloyd has sent a notice of violation to both homeowners.

Chairperson Report

The tree planting took place on Saturday, 11/5/11. Thirty-six (36) of the forty (40) trees provided by the Delaware Center for Horticulture were planted. These trees represent a significant gift to the City. The quality of the ground at The Strand and Harmony Street and at Buttonwood was poor and plantings were not done at these locations.

Budget Report

In June 2011 City Council allotted the Tree Commission \$5,000 and another \$5,000 was provided by the Trustees as part of green projects. We had a carry-over of \$2,721.70 from FY2011 for the cherry tree insurance claim (E. 14th Street & Van Dyke Village). We have spent \$3,600 for elm injections; \$5,175 to Tree, Inc. for pruning and removals, \$495 to Bob Rizzardi for emergency work (6/10/11 storm damage), and \$380 for Tree Tech (Russ Carlson) for evaluation of trees on three (3) properties. We have \$3,121.70 remaining and included in that is a requisition for \$385 (Tree Tech) for elm tree evaluation and suspected vandalism of the ash tree in the park. There is an active requisition of \$7,675 submitted to the City for removals and pruning that we have approved. The status of this requisition is unknown to date.

Ms. Keyser was invited to attend a recent City Council meeting to report on the tree planting (11/5/11) and inform what the Tree Commission is doing. (*Discussion followed about the ordinance and the Tree Commission's strategy as an asset to the City.*) Mr. Lloyd reminded that the City has a 13% tree canopy cover, which is considered underfunded in that area by state forestry personnel. Part of the tree planting involving free trees from The Lions Club and Delaware Center for Horticulture is intended to increase our tree canopy. Council has a responsibility to keep, maintain, perpetuate and enhance trees in the City. It is believed that residents support the work of this body. Tree Commission members were encouraged to communicate with Council members.

Mr. Lloyd has an application to request funding for FY 2012 from the Trustees that is due 11/30/11. He requested assistance in completing the application. Types of projects to request were discussed. Mr. Patterson suggested a specific project and that that project be located away from the downtown area. Another suggestion was to submit several small projects since the deadline for applications is so close and develop a larger project to submit next year. (*Discussion followed.*) The Tree Commission needs an active liaison between the City/Tree Commission/Council or a Trustee member to act as an advocate for this body.

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New Business

227 Chestnut Street – There is an elm tree that has several large broken limbs up in the tree that needs to be addressed. The tree belongs to the Trustees.

Ms. Keyser will send a 'thank you' acknowledgement to the Delaware Center for Horticulture on behalf of the Tree Commission.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie

Debbie Turner
Stenographer